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CPYRGHT

What Should CIA Be Doing?

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IT MAY be that far too much publicity has been given to the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency of late but by its own questionable actions the CIA has prompted this scrutiny.

Admittedly this "hush - hush" organization can best proceed with its important business away from the public spotlight. However, when the CIA oversteps its bounds and begins making policy and even going so far as to implement this policy then there is a need for remedial action.

The CIA was established for the purpose of gathering, evaluating and interpreting political, economic, military and scientific information from around the world. This data then is supposed to be turned over to the proper policy - making authorities in the Government.

As pointed out by Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor following the Cuban fiasco, the CIA was not established to engage in "paramilitary" activities, subversion, subsidized revolt and clandestine efforts to influence foreign countries. Gen. Taylor had been directed to undertake a study of the agency by President Kennedy following the disastrous Cuban invasion attempt. The General said the CIA should be confined to carrying out the original intent of the organization.

There is little opportunity for the public to judge the CIA because most of its activities including the appropriations received by the agency are cloaked in secrecy. There are thousands of employees on the CIA's payroll and it spends billions of dollars a year.

There have been moves made at times to bring the CIA under a Congressional "watchdog" committee which may be proper but it would be far better for the organization to set its own house in order. Under its new director Vice Adm. William F. Raborn we are hopeful that the CIA can get back on the right track without being forced to come out in the public spotlight to the extent that its operations are seriously jeopardized.